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Retail Sales Tax:

- According to the information provided by the Department of Revenue, the state collected **\$1,488,849,637** in retail sales tax for the fiscal year 2005. This number does not include local taxes or use taxes.
- Using that number, I've figured that each cent of state sales tax produced **\$297,769,927**.
- Further refining it, each 1/10th of a cent produced **\$29.8 million**
 - It should be noted that I didn't use the gross sales tax collection number provided by the state which is significantly higher. This is because that figure includes local option sales tax and hotel/motel tax collections.

Real Estate Transfer Tax:

- The tax rate is **80¢ for each \$500** or fractional part of \$500 in excess of \$500 paid for the real property transferred.
- **82.75%** of that goes to the state, with **95%** of that going to the State General Fund and **5%** going to the Shelter Assistance Fund.
- The amount collected for the fiscal year 2005 was **\$16,673,481.45** (this number reflects only the amount that goes to the state).

Iowa Environmental Protection Charge (EPC):

- The EPC is the tax imposed on all deposits of petroleum products into non-exempt underground and non-exempt aboveground storage tanks in Iowa.
- The tax rate is **1¢/gallon** of petroleum products deposited in qualifying tanks.
- The fund are deposited into the Iowa Comprehensive Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Fund. This fund is administered by a six member board that uses the fund to cleanup the release of any petroleum products and also to investigate and cleanup past contamination.
- The amount collected for the fiscal year 2005 was **\$20,995,594.55**.

Summary of Selected State Natural Resource Funding

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Arkansas: Quick Fact Sheet

State Characteristics

- Population of 2.8 million
 - **52% urban**; 48% rural
- 52,068 square miles in size
- 51 State parks

Arkansas Conservation Sales Tax

- Constitutional amendment passed in 1996
- Mechanism: 1/8th percent sales tax
- Revenue split four ways;
 - 45% to Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
 - 45% to Department of Parks & Tourism
 - 9% to Department of Arkansas Heritage
 - 1% to Keep Arkansas Beautiful
- Revenue: **FY 2004 \$21 million** for the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission and the Dept. of Parks & Tourism each.
- It may be important to note that the constitutional amendment passed with only 50.6% of the vote.
 - It took three tries to get the amendment passed.
 - Polls showed that support was markedly higher in urban areas.

Real Estate Transfer Tax

- Rate: \$3.30 per \$1,000
- Revenue: approximately **\$12 million** annually
- 80% of the funds collected are allocated to the Natural and Cultural Resources Council for acquisition and preservation of state owned lands and historic sites.

Colorado: Quick Fact Sheet

State Characteristics

- Population of over 4.6 million
 - **85% urban**; 15% rural
- 103,718 square miles in size
- 44 State Parks

Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund(GOCO)

- Constitutional amendment passed in 1992
- Measure passed with **58%** of the vote.
- Mechanism: lottery proceeds
- Goal: To fund “projects that preserve, protect, and enhance Colorado’s wildlife, parks, rivers, trails and open spaces.”
- Revenue: **FY 2004-2005 \$50.1 million**
 - 50% of Colorado lottery proceeds with a cap originally set at \$35 million
 - Cap is adjusted for inflation each year
 - Remaining funds directed to the Public School Fund
- Funds split among wildlife, outdoor recreation, open space, and local government in substantially equal portions over time.
- Motivation for this program sprung from past experiences of the Legislature reallocating lottery proceeds intended for greenways and open space

Illinois: Quick Fact Sheet

State Characteristics

- Population of 12.8 million
 - **88% urban**; 12% rural
- 55,584 square miles in size
- 186 State Parks and public use areas

Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD)

- Dedicated funding source statutorily enacted in 1989
- Goal: Provide grants to local government for acquisition and development of parks and open spaces.
- Mechanism: 35% of Real Estate Transfer Tax apportioned to OSLAD
 - Illinois transfer tax rate is 0.10% or 50¢ per \$500
- Revenue: **FY 2005 \$38 million**

Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF)

- Dedicated funding source statutorily enacted in 1989
- Goal: Protection of natural areas, wetlands, and other high quality natural communities.
- Mechanism: 15% of Real Estate Transfer Tax apportion to NAAF
- Revenue: **FY 2005 \$16.3 million**

Note

- Although statutorily protected, both of the funds have come under attack as of late.
 - The governor proposed a one year “vacation” from the program at one point, but this was defeated.
 - The legislature has also proposed measures to reduce the percentage of the Real Estate Transfer Tax that these programs receive.
- It appears that it has taken some vigilance to protect these dedicated funds in times of budget shortfalls.

Kansas: Quick Fact Sheet

State Characteristics

- Population of 2.7 million
 - **71% urban**; 29% rural
- 81,815 square miles in size
- 24 State parks

Funding

- Kansas relies heavily upon user fees to fund its natural resources programming
 - In 2003, roughly 60% of the operating costs of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks was covered by user fees.
 - Another 22% in funding came from federal aid.
 - A general fund allocation accounted for under 10% of the Department's budget.
- Kansas has seen a great reduction in general fund allocations over the years, this has marked a shift from a time when general fund dollars accounted for the majority of the Department's budget to the current user fee reliant system.
- Kansas state parks have become under funded and it would appear that Kansas, much like Iowa, is exploring their options.

Minnesota: Quick Fact Sheet

State Characteristics

- Population of 5.1 million
 - **71% urban**; 29% rural
- 79,610 square miles in size
- 66 State parks

Nongame Wildlife Checkoff Fund

- Mechanism: Check-off on state tax forms
- Statutorily enacted in 1980
- Revenue: approximately \$1 million annually
 - Since its inception, the Fund has raised over \$22 million.
- While other states have similar funds, Minnesota has had the highest participation rate in the U.S. at 3.6%.
 - This has been somewhat credited to the resistance to add further check offs on the state tax forms.

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

- Constitutionally protected funding enacted in 1988, and then renewed in 1998 through 2024.
- Mechanism: Lottery proceeds
- Goal: To fund projects of long-term benefit to Minnesota's environment and natural resources.
- Revenue: **FY 2005 \$28 million**
- Since enactment the fund has received more than \$366.5 million.

In-Lieu-of-Sales Tax

- Minnesota lottery is exempt from general sales taxes so the state imposes a 6.5% in-lieu-of-sales tax on lottery tickets.
- The Game & Fish fund received 36.2% of this tax in FY 2004, amounting to over \$9 million.
- Parks & Trails received 32.6% of this tax in FY 2004, amounting to over \$8 million.
- The rest of the tax revenue goes to the General Fund.

Missouri: Quick Fact Sheet

State Characteristics

- Population of 5.6 million
 - Nearly **70% urban**; 30% rural
- 69,704 square miles in size
- 81 State parks (including historical sites)

Missouri Conservation Sales Tax

- Passed in 1976, constitutionally protected
- Mechanism: 1/8th percent sales tax
- Revenue: **FY 2004 \$93 million**
 - To date, program has raised over \$1.6 billion.
- Sales tax accounts for over **60%** of Dept. of Conservation's annual budget.
 - Another 20% comes from hunting and fishing licenses.
- Money goes to the Department of Conservation, which manages fish, forest, and wildlife resources.
- Money is administered by the Conservation Commission
 - Members appointed by the Governor

Parks & Soil Sales Tax (PSST)

- In 1984 Missouri passed a 1/10th percent sales tax to support soil and water conservation along with state parks.
- The PSST produced nearly **\$75 million in the FY 2004**
 - The revenue is split 50/50 between soil/water and the parks
- Unlike the Conservation Sales Tax, the PSST contains a sunset provision
 - This tax is set to be voted on for renewal in the fall of 2006.
 - If passed, it would be renewed for another ten years.

Nebraska: Quick Fact Sheet

State Characteristics

- Population of 1,758,787 million
 - **70% urban**; 30% rural
- 76,872 square miles in size
- 87 State parks

Nebraska Resources Development Fund

- Created in 1974 to assist with the development and wise use of water and land resources.
- Mechanism: General Fund appropriation
- Revenue: **\$3.6 million in 2004**

Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund

- **Passed in 1992** with the purpose of conserving, enhancing, and restoring the natural physical and biological environment in Nebraska.
- Mechanism: Lottery proceeds
- 44.5% of lottery proceeds go to the fund.
- Revenue: **\$10 million in FY 2005**

Other Funding

- Lifetime hunting, fishing, and habitat stamps sales produced \$814,500 in revenue in 2005. This represented an 82% increase over the previous year.
- The Nebraska Game & Parks Commission otherwise relies upon user fees quite heavily.
 - Of the Commission's **\$57 million 2005 budget**, only 15% came from the state's General Fund.
 - Another 25% came from State & Federal reimbursements and direct Federal Funds.
 - Nearly **50%** of revenue came from various forms of user fees.

South Dakota: Quick Fact Sheet

State Characteristics

- Population of 775,933
 - **52% urban**; 48% rural
- 75,885 square miles in size
- 12 State parks

State Natural Resource Funding

- Total budget for South Dakota DENR for FY 2006 is approximately \$16 million.
 - \$5.8 million from the state General Fund
 - \$5.3 million from federal funds
 - \$5 million from other sources
- The South Dakota Department of Fish, Game, and Parks Division of Wildlife manages the states wildlife and fishing resources.
 - The department's 2005 budget was approximately **\$36 million**.
 - Nearly **70%** came from hunting and fishing license sales
 - Another **24%** came from federal aid
 - The rest came from miscellaneous revenue items

Texas: Quick Fact Sheet

State Characteristics

- Population of approximately 23 million
 - **82% urban**; 18% rural
- 261,797 square miles in size
- 120 State parks

Sporting Goods Sales Tax

- Passed in 1993 and statutorily dedicates funds to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Revenue: **FY 2003 \$24 million allocated**
- The cap for the fund is set at \$32 million
- With no cap, the sporting goods sales tax would generate approximately \$100 million annually.
- While the cap is set at \$32 million, the legislation does not mandate that the full amount be allocated.
 - Indeed, the full amount has not been allocated by the legislature.
 - This has lead to a yearly struggle to secure funding.
- The Texas legislature saw a proposal in 2005 to raise the cap the \$85 million, but the idea didn't make it out of committee.
- Texas had formerly relied on a cigarette tax to fund their parks
 - Declining sales of cigarettes lead the state to find a new funding source

Wisconsin: Quick Fact Sheet

State Characteristics

- Population of 5.5 million
 - **68% urban**; 32% rural
- 54,310 square miles in size
- 93 State parks & recreation areas

Fishing and Wildlife Funding

- This is done through the Department of Natural Resources
- **Wisconsin ranks 1st** amongst Midwestern states in fishing and wildlife activity funding.
- The department spent \$120 million on fishing and wildlife activities for the FY 2004-05.
 - **\$68 million** of that money came from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses
 - \$20 million came from federal aid
 - \$18 million came from bonds that were used to acquire hunting and fishing land
 - \$8 million came from the state General Fund
- Wisconsin has become increasingly reliant on user fees and has begun to search for other sources of funding for the DNR.
- The reliance on user fees has lead to a pattern of raising fees to maintain funding levels. This has had the effect of causing resentment in the gaming and fishing community who feel they bear too much of the burden.